

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 IGA-02 DRC-01 /186 W
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R 301627Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8143

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3025

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PFOR VS DA

SUBJ: DANISH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRG

REF: A) STATE 222475 B) COPENHAGEN 1598 (NOTAL)

C) COPENHAGEN 0804 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. WHILE DANISH OFFICIALS FREELY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PRG HAS ONE OF ATTRIBUTES OF A STATE, THEY FEEL THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AS WELL AS THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES, FORCE THEM TO TAKE NEGATIVE POSITION ON AID CONSORTIUM FOR SVN AND IBRD AUSPICES. THEY CONFIRMED THAT, SHOULD CONSORTIUM PROCEED, DENMARK WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD IDA REPLENISHMENT BECAUSE DEOMESTIC CRITICS COULD THEN CLAIM THAT IBRD HAS TAKEN "POLITICAL ACTION" NOT IN KEEPING WITH ITS CHARTER. OFFICIALS CLAIMED DENMARK'S POSITION IS LESS EXTREME THAN OTHER NORDICS, ESPECIALLY SWEDEN, BUT THAT ONLY CONCESSION IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO MAKE IS ON "LIMITED" AID TO SVN
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UNDER NORMAL IBRD RULES. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED POINTS RAISED REF A WITH FONOFF POLITICAL AND AID OFFICIALS. BOTH AGREED PRG IS CLEARLY NOT A STATE BUT NOTED THIS POINT IS NOT DETERMINING OF DANISH VIEWS. DANISH AID OFFICIAL, REPSDORPH (DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF DANIDA), CITED POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS WITHIN WHICH HIS AGENCY MUST OPERATE, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND IN COORDINATION WITH NORDIC GROUP. IN DENMARK, HE SAID, VIETNAM REMAINS A LATENT POLITICAL ISSUE AND IBRD, AS DEMONSTRATIONS DURING IMF/IBRD BOARDS MEETINGS HERE IN 1970 ILLUSTRATED, CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY SOME ELEMENTS AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENT OF LARGER CAPITALIST POWERS. WHILE THESE VIEWS ARE STRONGLY HELD ONLY BY A SMALL MINORITY, THEY ARE SHARED TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BY MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF DANES AND REFLECTED IN PARLIAMENT. FEELING IN OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES IS MUCH THE SAME AND, IN CASE OF SWEDEN, CONSIDERABLY STRONGER. IN THIS REGARD, HE COMPARED SWEDEN'S "MINIMAL" AID TO SVN OF SKR. 2-3 MILLION WITH DENMARK'S CURRENT COMMITMENT OF DKR. 15 MILLION GRANT AID AND DKR. 40 MILLION IN LOANS.

2. TO SKIRT POLITICAL ASPECTS, DENMARK DECIDED TO FOCUS ON "NON-POLITICAL, HUMANITARIAN" AID TO SVN, NVN AND PRG ON BILATERAL BASIS TO BE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO NEED. EARLIER WILLINGNESS AT LEAST TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN IBRD CONSORTIUM (REF C) IS NOW OVERTAKEN BY POLITICAL CONCERNS CITED. WHILE OPPOSED TO CONSORTIUM, REPSDORPH SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR DENMARK AND, HE THOUGHT, OTHER NORDICS TO OBJECT TO "LIMITED" AID TO SVN UNDER NORMAL IBRD RULES SINCE SVN IS IBRD MEMBER.

3. REPSDORPH MADE CLEAR THAT DENMARK FELT OBLIGED TO SUPPORT STATEMENT MADE BY SWEDISH REP AT PARIS MEETING (REF A) AND THAT DENMARK WOULD FEEL OBLIGATED TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON IDA REPLENISHMENT SHOULD CONSORTIUM PROCEED UNDER IBRD AUSPICES. HE FEARED THAT "EXTRAORDINARY" AID EFFORT FOR SVN ONLY, REPRESENTED BY CONSORTIUM, WOULD CAUSE DANISH PARLIAMENT TO REACT CRITICALLY TO IBRD GENERALLY. RESPONDING TO OUR QUESTION, HE THOUGHT THAT, EVEN IF CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS SHOULD WIN DEC 4 ELECTION, NO BASIC CHANGE COULD BE EXPECTED IN DANISH VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE.

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